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Preface

This release is compiled and published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) according to a framework of International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) developed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The IRTS is one element of a System of Tourism Statistics (STS) that provides information for understanding and monitoring the impact of tourism over time. The other element of the STS for South Africa includes the use of border statistics from the National Department of Home Affairs.

This monthly statistical release provides information on South African residents and foreign travellers who entered or left South Africa in October 2023. Specific focus is on foreign tourists who entered the country in October 2023. Tourists are classified by region and country of residence. Details of their mode of travel; purpose of visit; age and sex distribution are also provided.

The March, June, September and December releases include summaries of number of tourists for the current quarter and comparisons with previous periods.



Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Highlights of the results

In October 2023, 2 648 392 (arrivals, departures and transits) travellers entered and exited South Africa. They were made up of 28,9% South African residents and 71,1% foreign travellers. Foreign arrivals, 1 000 462 were made up of 3,1% non-visitors and 96,9% visitors. The visitors, 969 591 consisted of 24,6% same-day visitors and 75,4% overnight visitors (tourists).

Tourists

Overseas tourists were 26,0% (189 778) of all tourists. United Kingdom (UK) (30 424), USA (28 011) and Germany (27 512) contributed 45,3% to overseas tourists. Southern African Development Community (SADC) tourists were 72,2% (527 616) of all tourists. Zimbabwe (183 692), Mozambique (107 426) and Lesotho (89 226) contributed 72,1% to SADC tourists. 'Other' African countries (non-SADC) tourists were 1,7% (12 495) of all tourists. Kenya (4 464), Nigeria (1 875) and Uganda (1 155) contributed 60,0% to 'other' African tourists. The country of residence of 1 219 (0,2%) tourists was classified as unspecified.

Purpose of visit

'Holiday'¹ continues to be the main purpose of visit. About 96,4% of all the tourists were in South Africa for holiday purposes.

¹ The holiday category includes tourists who came for vacation, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and other personal reasons such as attending weddings.

2. Key findings

2.1 Travellers

2.1.1 Number of travellers

The routine data collected by the Department of Home Affairs’ (DHA) immigration officers at the ports of entry into and out of South Africa shows that a total of 2 648 392 travellers (arrivals, departures, and transits) passed through South African ports of entry/exit in October 2023. As presented in Table 1 below, these travellers were made up of 764 296 South African residents and 1 884 096 foreign travellers. A further breakdown of the figures for South African residents indicates that there were 405 388 arrivals, 358 439 departures and 469 travellers in transit. The corresponding volume for foreign arrivals, departures and travellers in transit was 1 000 462, 846 895 and 36 739, respectively.

A comparison between the movements in September 2023 and October 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals increased for both South African residents and foreign travellers. The volume of departures decreased for South African residents but increased for foreign travellers. Travellers in transit remained the same for South African residents but decreased for foreign travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 11,5% (from 363 659 in September 2023 to 405 388 in October 2023) whereas departures decreased by 11,0% (from 402 641 in September 2023 to 358 439 in October 2023). Travellers in transits remained the same at 469 transits. For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 6,1% (from 943 387 in September 2023 to 1 000 462 in October 2023), departures increased by 4,1% (from 813 196 in September 2023 to 846 895 in October 2023) and transits decreased by 8,3% (from 40 058 in September 2023 to 36 739 in October 2023).

A comparison between the movements in October 2022 and October 2023 indicates that the volume of arrivals, departures and travellers in transit increased for both groups of travellers. For South African residents, the volume of arrivals increased by 15,8% (from 349 974 in October 2022 to 405 388 in October 2023), departures increased by 11,4% (from 321 857 in October 2022 to 358 439 in October 2023) and transits increased by 24,4% (from 377 in October 2022 to 469 in October 2023). For foreign travellers, arrivals increased by 22,6% (from 815 889 in October 2022 to 1 000 462 in October 2023), departures increased by 20,8% (from 700 953 in October 2022 to 846 895 in October 2023) and transits increased by 31,6% (from 27 912 in October 2022 to 36 739 in October 2023).

Table 1 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction

Travel Direction	October 2022	September 2023	October 2023	% Change Sep 2023 – Oct 2023	% Change Oct 2022 – Oct 2023
Total	2 216 962	2 563 410	2 648 392	3,3%	19,5%
South African residents	672 208	766 769	764 296	-0,3%	13,7%
Arrivals	349 974	363 659	405 388	11,5%	15,8%
Departures	321 857	402 641	358 439	-11,0%	11,4%
Transits	377	469	469	0,0%	24,4%
Foreign travellers	1 544 754	1 796 641	1 884 096	4,9%	22,0%
Arrivals	815 889	943 387	1 000 462	6,1%	22,6%
Departures	700 953	813 196	846 895	4,1%	20,8%
Transits	27 912	40 058	36 739	-8,3%	31,6%

2.1.2 Mode of travel of travellers

Information presented in Table 2 below shows the number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel. In October 2023, road was the most common mode of travel used by 1 730 259 (65,3%) of the 2 648 392 travellers. Total number of travellers who used air was 913 034 (34,5%). Compared to air and land, a smaller number of travellers, 5 099 (0,2%) used sea into and out of South Africa. Information on arrivals of South African residents shows that 193 368 (47,7%) came by air, 211 811 (52,2%) came by road and 209 (0,1%) arrived by sea. For departures, 163 952 (45,7%) used air, 194 296 (54,2%) used road and 191 (0,1%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 469 (100,0%) used air.

In the case of foreign travellers, 262 119 (26,2%) arrived by air, 736 078 (73,6%) came by road and 2 265 (0,2%) arrived by sea. When departing South Africa, 256 387 (30,3%) foreign travellers left by air, 588 074 (69,4%) left by road and 2 434 (0,3%) left by sea. All travellers in transit, 36 739 (100,0%) used air.

Table 2 – Number of South African residents and foreign travellers by travel direction and mode of travel

Travel direction	Total	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	2 648 392	234 275	25 414	648 695	4 650	913 034	1 730 259	5 099
South African residents	764 296	72 287	17 846	265 670	1 986	357 789	406 107	400
Arrivals	405 388	40 233	9 576	142 532	1 027	193 368	211 811	209
Departures	358 439	32 051	8 270	122 672	959	163 952	194 296	191
Transit	469	3	-	466	-	469	-	-
Foreign travellers	1 884 096	161 988	7 568	383 025	2 664	555 245	1 324 152	4 699
Arrivals	1 000 462	83 597	3 638	173 900	984	262 119	736 078	2 265
Departures	846 895	78 065	3 930	172 712	1 680	256 387	588 074	2 434
Transit	36 739	326	-	36 413	-	36 739	-	-
Visitors	969 591	79 995	3 139	168 847	814	252 795	716 687	109
Same-day	238 483	1 189	48	18 968	31	20 236	218 236	11
Tourist	731 108	78 806	3 091	149 879	783	232 559	498 451	98

2.2 Visitors

Detailed information on the departure of travellers is not available in the movement control system. Data on the purpose of travel and the number of days South African residents intend to spend or spent abroad are not collected by the DHA. It is therefore not possible to categorise South African residents as tourists or non-tourists. However, some data are available on foreign arrivals for this categorisation.

As presented in Table 3 on page 4, in October 2023, 30 871 (3,1%) of foreign arrivals were classified as non-visitors, while 969 591 (96,9%) were classified as visitors. Visitors were categorised into three groups:

- i. Arrivals only – comprising visitors who entered the country in October 2023 but did not depart in October 2023 [328 794 (33,9%)];
- ii. Single trips – visitors who came to South Africa once in October 2023 and left in October 2023 [317 711 (32,8%)]; and
- iii. Multiple trips – visitors who came to and left South Africa more than once in October 2023 [323 086 (33,3%)].

Visitors were further grouped as same-day visitors and overnight visitors (tourists). In October 2023, there were 238 483 (24,6%) same-day visitors and 731 108 (75,4%) tourists. Between September 2023 and October 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 1,9% (from 233 986 in September 2023 to 238 483 in October 2023) whereas that of tourists increased by 6,9% (from 684 161 in September 2023 to 731 108 in October 2023). Between October 2022 and October 2023, the volume of same-day visitors increased by 28,6% (from 185 516 in October 2022 to 238 483 in October 2023) and that of tourists increased by 29,2% (from 565 862 in October 2022 to 731 108 in October 2023).

Table 2 on page 3 further shows that of the 238 483 same-day visitors, a majority, 218 236 (91,5%) arrived in the country by road, 20 236 (8,5%) arrived by air and 11 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Information on tourists shows that 498 451 (68,2%) used road, 232 559 (31,8%) came by air and 98 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea.

Table 3 – Number of visitors by type of visitor

Travel Direction	October 2022	September 2023	October 2023	% Change Sep 2023 – Oct 2023	% Change Oct 2022 – Oct 2023
Foreign arrivals	815 889	943 387	1 000 462	6,1%	22,6%
Non-visitors	64 511	25 240	30 871	22,3%	-52,1%
Visitors	751 378	918 147	969 591	5,6%	29,0%
Visitors	751 378	918 147	969 591	5,6%	29,0%
Arrivals only	236 705	312 520	328 794	5,2%	38,9%
Single trips	254 497	294 846	317 711	7,8%	24,8%
Multiple trips	260 176	310 781	323 086	4,0%	24,2%
Visitors	751 378	918 147	969 591	5,6%	29,0%
Same-day	185 516	233 986	238 483	1,9%	28,6%
Overnight (Tourists)	565 862	684 161	731 108	6,9%	29,2%

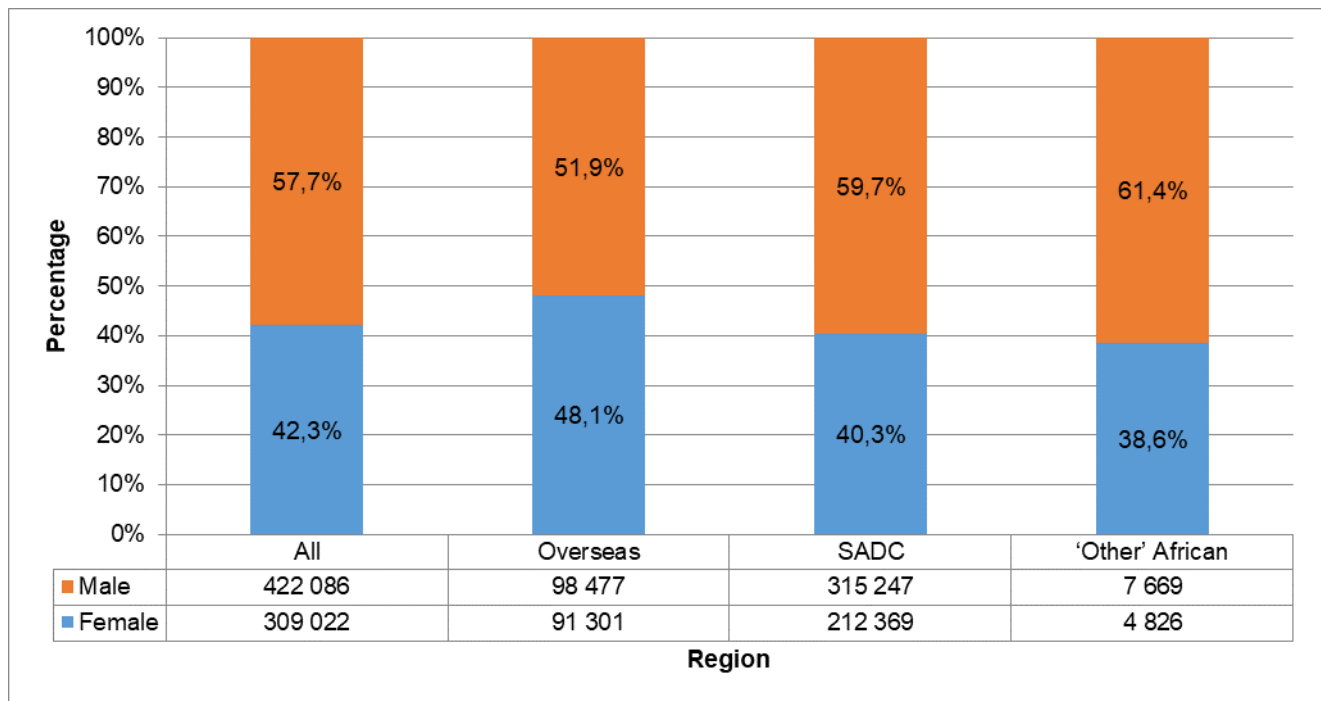
2.3 Tourists

2.3.1 Sex and age distribution of tourists

Sex

Figure 1 on page 5 shows that there were more male [422 086 (57,7%)] than female [309 022 (42,3%)] tourists. Male tourists constituted the majority of tourists for all three regions, SADC countries [315 247 (59,7%)], overseas countries [98 477 (51,9%)] and 'other' African countries [7 669 (61,4%)]. Similarly, the largest portion of female tourists was from SADC countries [212 369 (40,3%)], followed by overseas countries [91 301 (48,1%)] and 'other' African countries [4 826 (38,6%)].

Figure 1 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and sex, October 2023

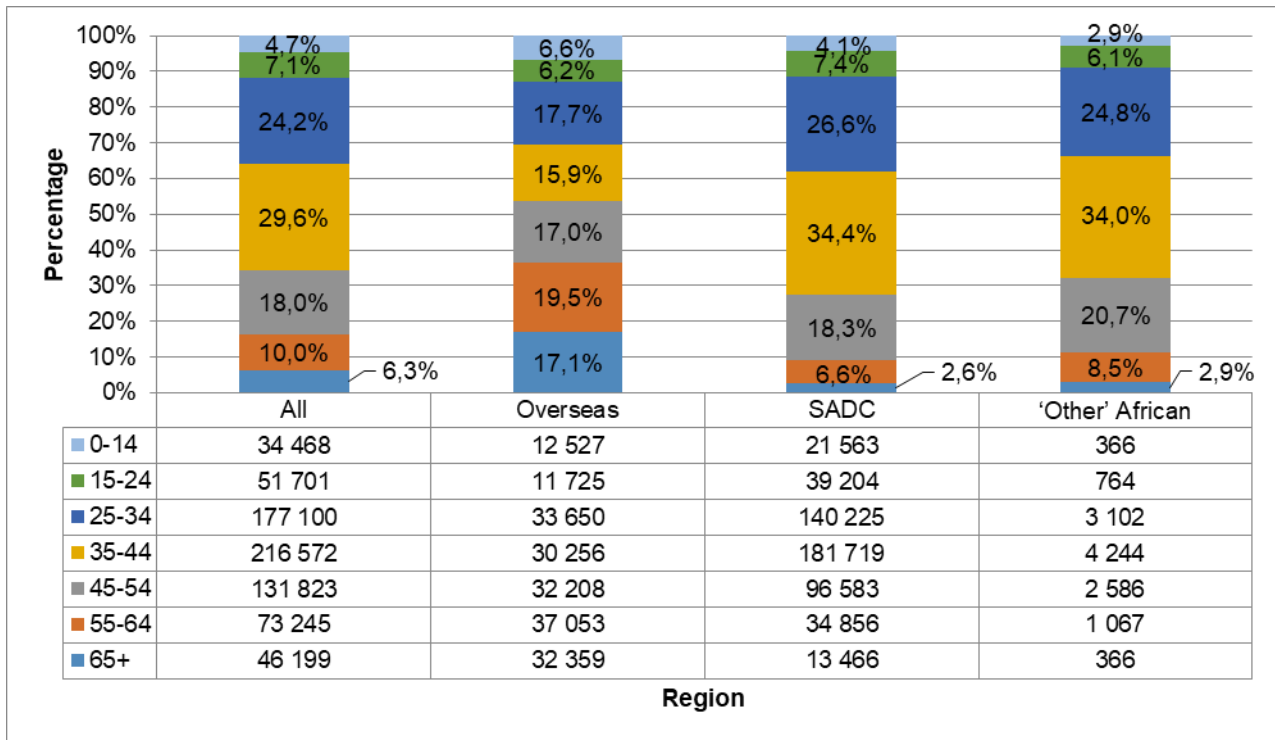


Age

The age distribution indicates that out of all tourists, [34 468 (4,7%)] were aged younger than 15 years; [51 701 (7,1%)] were aged between 15 and 24 years; [177 100 (24,2%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years; [216 572 (29,6%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years; [131 823 (18,0%)] were aged between 45 and 54 years; [73 245 (10,0%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years and [46 199 (6,3%)] were aged 65 years and above (see Figure 2 on page 6).

Taking the region of residence into consideration, the results show that the highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [181 719 (34,4%)] and those from 'other' African countries [4 244 (34,0%)] were aged between 35 and 44 years whereas those from overseas countries [37 053 (19,5%)] were aged between 55 and 64 years. The second highest proportion of tourists from SADC countries [140 225 (26,6%)], those from 'other' African countries [3 102 (24,8%)] and those from overseas countries [33 650 (17,7%)] were aged between 25 and 34 years. The median ages of tourists from overseas, SADC and 'other' African countries were 47, 38 and 39 years, respectively. The proportion of tourists aged younger than 15 years was higher among tourists from overseas countries, 6,6% (12 527) compared to those from SADC countries, 4,1% (21 563) and those from 'other' African countries, 2,9% (366).

Figure 2 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and age, October 2023

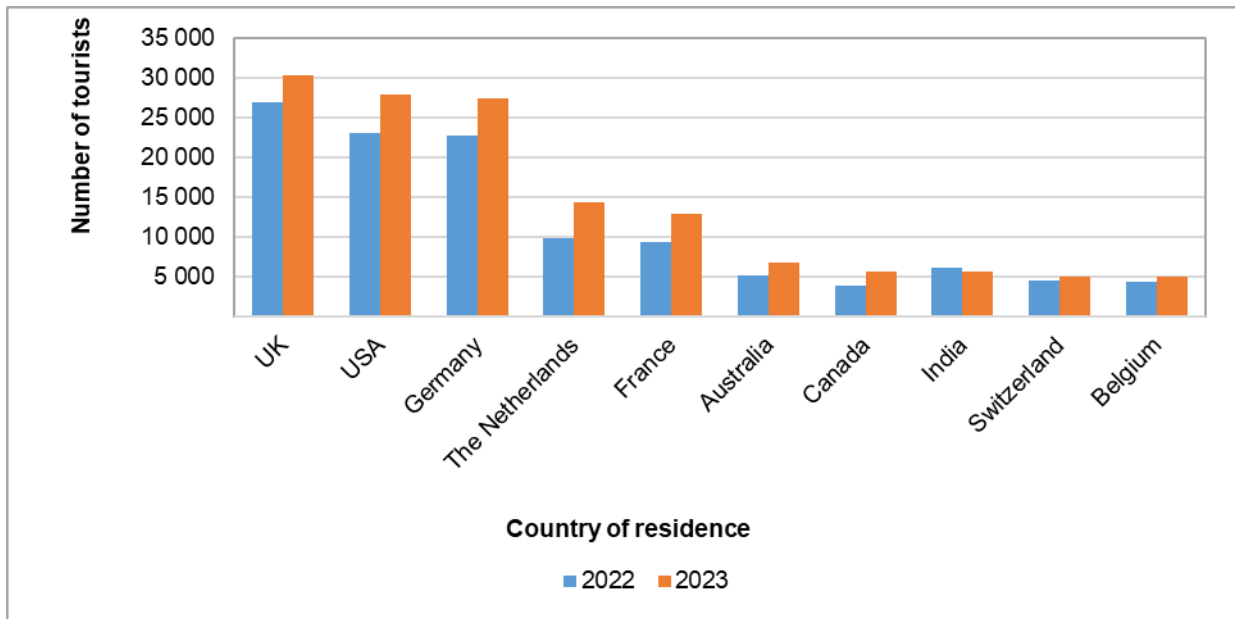


2.3.2 Regional and national distribution of tourists

In October 2023, the distribution of overseas tourists was as follows: Europe, 122 599 (64,6%); North America, 33 631 (17,7%); Asia, 17 287 (9,1%); Australasia, 8 446 (4,5%); Central and South America, 4 980 (2,6%) and The Middle East, 2 835 (1,5%).

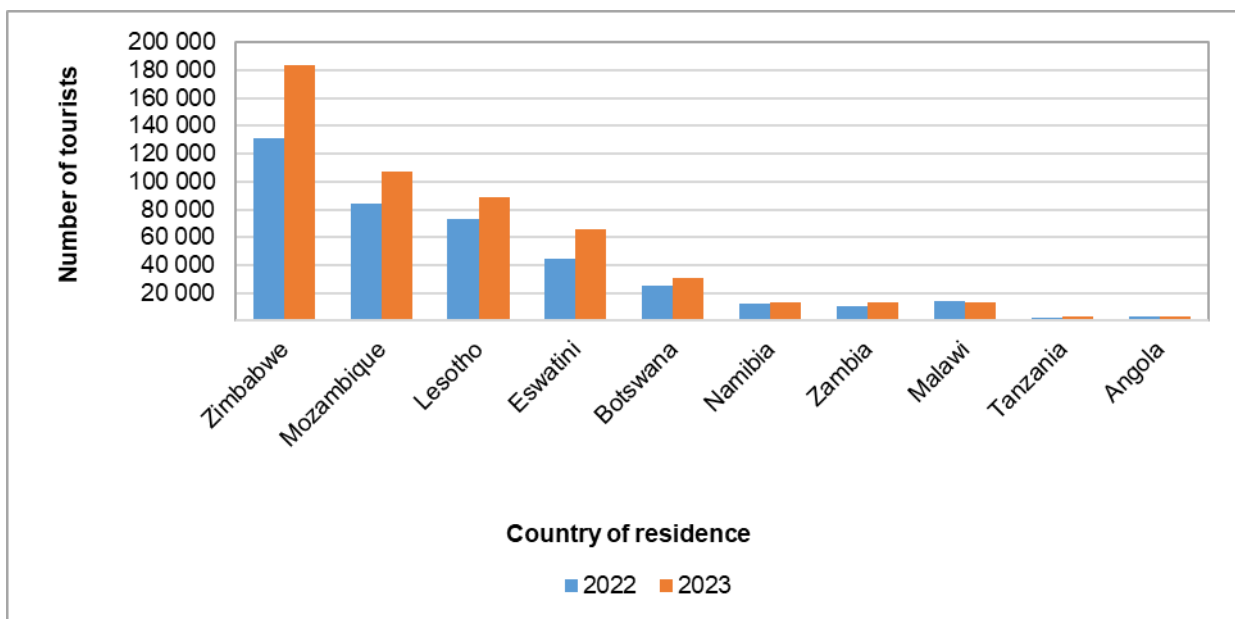
Figure 3 on page 7 indicates that the 10 leading overseas countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2023 were: UK, 30 424 (16,0%); United States of America (USA), 28 011 (14,8%); Germany, 27 512 (14,5%); The Netherlands, 14 417 (7,6%); France, 12 940 (6,8%); Australia, 6 879 (3,6%); Canada, 5 620 (3,0%); India, 5 601 (3,0%); Switzerland, 5 038 (2,7%) and Belgium, 5 017 (2,6%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 74,5% of all tourists from overseas countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between October 2022 and October 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for nine of the 10 leading countries. The Netherlands (47,1%) and Canada (46,7%) showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 3 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading overseas countries in October 2022 and October 2023



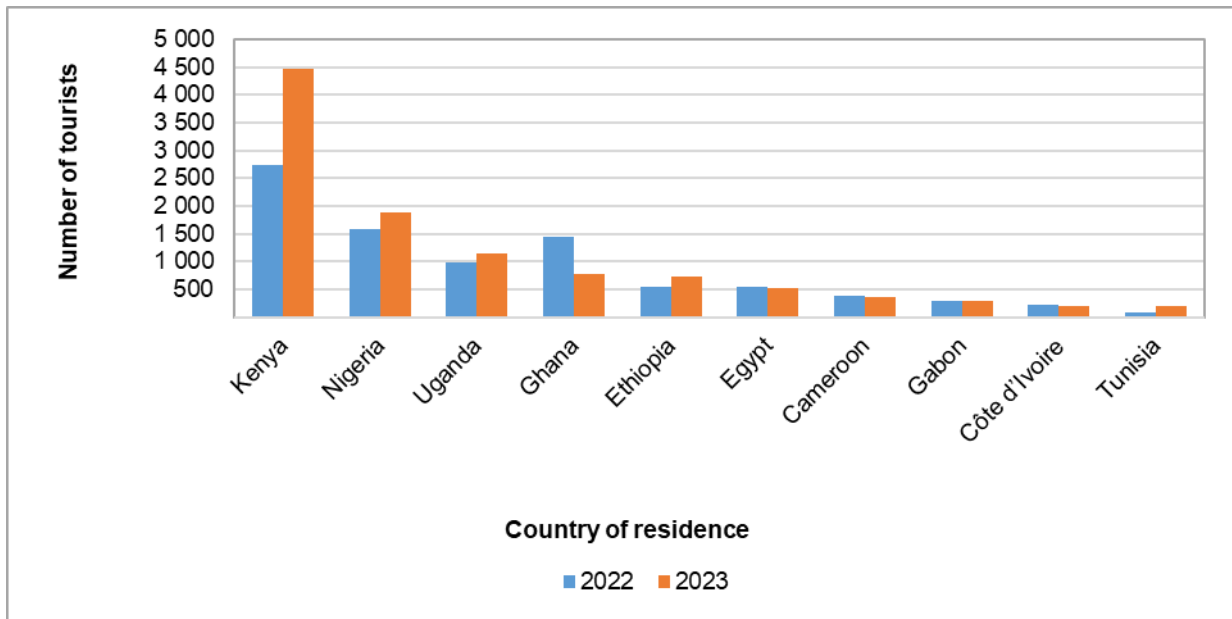
Virtually, most tourists from Africa, 527 616 (97,7%), came from SADC countries. The distribution of the remaining tourists from Africa was as follows: East and Central Africa, 7 629 (1,4%); West Africa, 3 695 (0,7%) and North Africa 1 171 (0,2%). Ten leading SADC countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2023 were: Zimbabwe, 183 692 (34,8%); Mozambique, 107 426 (20,4%); Lesotho, 89 226 (16,9%); Eswatini, 65 314 (12,4%); Botswana, 30 680 (5,8%); Namibia, 13 576 (2,6%); Zambia, 13 478 (2,6%); Malawi, 13 144 (2,5%); Tanzania, 3 208 (0,6%) and Angola, 3 124 (0,6%) (see Figure 4 below). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 99,1% of all tourists from the SADC countries. A comparison of movements in the 10 leading countries between October 2022 and October 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for nine of the 10 leading countries. Eswatini (48,0%) showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 4 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading SADC countries in October 2022 and October 2023



The 10 leading countries in terms of the number of tourists visiting South Africa in October 2023 from 'other' African countries, as shown in Figure 5 below, were: Kenya, 4 464 (35,7%); Nigeria, 1 875 (15,0%); Uganda, 1 155 (9,2%); Ghana, 772 (6,2%); Ethiopia, 724 (5,8%); Egypt, 527 (4,2%); Cameroon, 365 (2,9%); Gabon, 287 (2,3%); Côte d'Ivoire, 209 (1,7%) and Tunisia, 197 (1,6%). Tourists from these 10 countries constituted 84,6% of all tourists from 'other' African countries. A comparison between movements in October 2022 and October 2023 shows that the number of tourists increased for half of the 10 leading countries. Tunisia (123,9%) showed the highest year-on-year increase.

Figure 5 – Number of tourists from the 10 leading 'other' African countries in October 2022 and October 2023



2.3.3 Purpose of visit of tourists

Table 4 on page 9, shows the number of tourists by region and sub-region. Detailed data on the country of residence and purpose of visit is presented in Annexure C on pages 17 to 19. It is observed that in October 2023, the majority of tourists, 704 575 (96,4%), were in South Africa for holiday compared to 22 823 (3,1%); 3 413 (0,5%) and 297 (less than 0,1%) who were in South Africa for business, study and medical treatment respectively.

Within the overseas regions, Australasia, 99,2% (8 382) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for holiday followed by North America 98,2% (33 017); Europe, 98,1% (120 250); Central and South America, 97,4% (4 850); The Middle East, 95,7% (2 714) and Asia, 93,6% (16 175).

Asia, 5,3% (921) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business, followed by The Middle East, 2,8% (78); Central and South America, 2,2% (108); Europe, 1,7% (2 049); North America, 1,6% (543) and Australasia, 0,7% (59).

The Middle East, 1,5% (42) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to study, followed by Asia, 1,1% (184); Central and South America, 0,4% (22); Europe, 0,2% (258); North America, 0,2% (59) and Australasia, 0,1% (5).

Europe (42), North America (12), Asia (7) and The Middle East (1) had less than 0,1% of medical treatment tourists whereas Central and South America and Australasia had none.

Majority of African tourists, 518 047 (95,9%) came to South Africa for holiday. However, the following differences in terms of reasons for travel were observed between tourists from the SADC countries and 'other' African countries, namely:

- Holiday makers constituted 96,1% (506 910) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 89,1% (11 137) from 'other' African countries. Information on the regions of 'other' African countries shows that 90,4% (6 897) of tourists from East and Central Africa were on holiday, followed by tourists from West Africa, 88,0% (3 251) and those from North Africa, 84,5% (989).
- Business persons constituted 3,4% (18 020) of tourists from SADC countries compared to 7,8% (969) from 'other' African countries. North Africa, 12,5% (146) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for business purposes, followed by West Africa, 8,1% (300) and East and Central Africa, 6,9% (523).
- Students constituted 0,5% (2 497) of tourists from SADC countries compared with 2,8% (344) from 'other' African countries. West Africa, 3,4% (126) had the highest proportion of tourists who came to South Africa for study purposes, followed by North Africa, 2,6% (31) and East and Central Africa, 2,5% (187).
- Tourists who came for medical treatment constituted less than 0,1% (189) of tourists from SADC countries, while those from 'other' African countries constituted 0,4% (45). West Africa, 0,5% (18) had the highest proportion of tourists who came for medical treatment, followed by North Africa, 0,4% (5) and East and Central Africa, 0,3% (22).

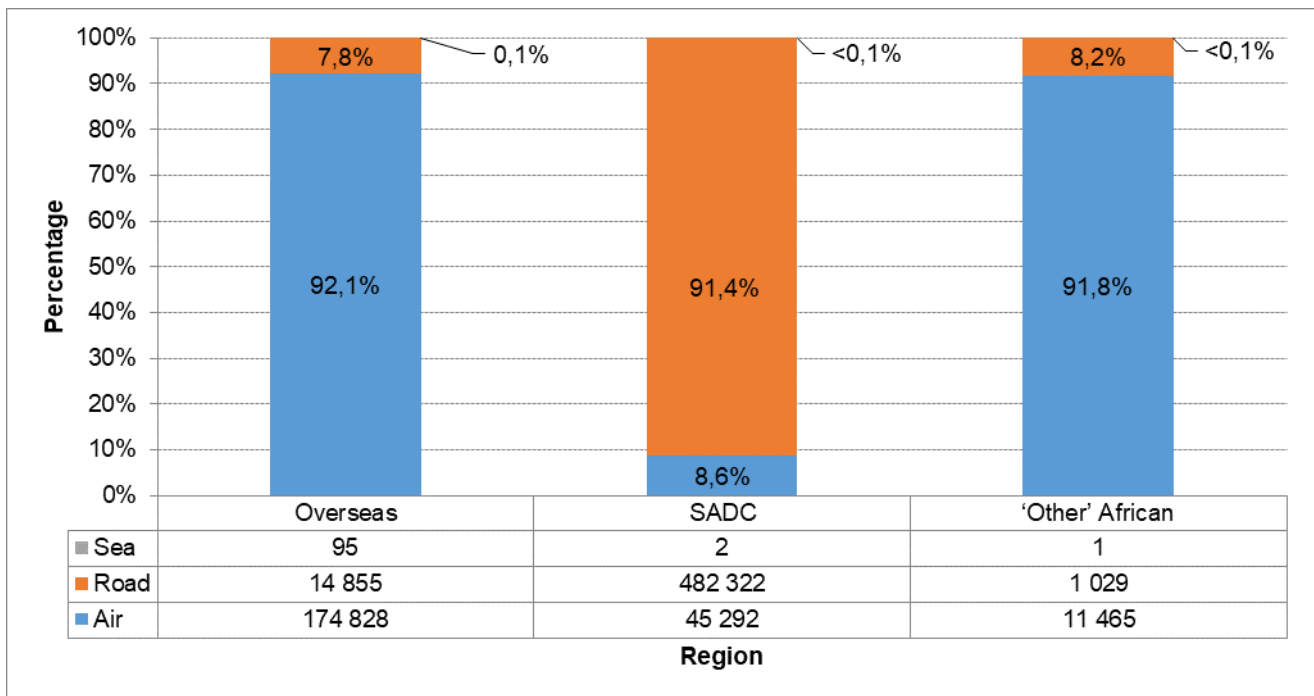
Table 4 – Number of tourists by region of residence and purpose of visit

Region of residence	October 2023	Business	Holiday	Study	Medical treatment
Total	731 108	22 823	704 575	3 413	297
Overseas	189 778	3 758	185 388	570	62
Europe	122 599	2 049	120 250	258	42
North America	33 631	543	33 017	59	12
Central and South America	4 980	108	4 850	22	-
Australasia	8 446	59	8 382	5	-
Middle East	2 835	78	2 714	42	1
Asia	17 287	921	16 175	184	7
Africa	540 111	18 989	518 047	2 841	234
SADC	527 616	18 020	506 910	2 497	189
'Other' African	12 495	969	11 137	344	45
East and Central Africa	7 629	523	6 897	187	22
West Africa	3 695	300	3 251	126	18
North Africa	1 171	146	989	31	5
Unspecified	1 219	76	1 140	2	1

2.3.4 Mode of travel of tourists

Tourists are categorised by their countries of residence and regions. Information on the specific region and country of residence of tourists and the mode of travel used to enter South Africa is provided in Annexure B on pages 14 to 16. As shown in Figure 6 below, 174 828 (92,1%) overseas tourists arrived in the country by air, whilst 14 855 (7,8%) came in by road and 95 (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. Tourists from the SADC countries, on the other hand, came predominantly by road, 482 322 (91,4%), whilst 45 292 (8,6%) came by air and two (less than 0,1%) arrived by sea. The number of tourists who came into South Africa by air from 'other' African countries was 11 465 (91,8%); while 1 029 (8,2%) used road transport and one (less than 0,1%) used sea.

Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of tourists by region of residence and mode of travel, October 2023



3. Annexures

3.1 Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between October 2022 and October 2023 by country of residence

Country of residence	October 2022	October 2023	Difference between October 2022 and October 2023	% change between October 2022 and October 2023
Total	565 862	731 108	165 246	29,2%
Overseas	151 189	189 778	38 589	25,5%
Europe	99 207	122 599	23 392	23,6%
Austria	1 646	2 239	593	36,0%
Belgium	4 454	5 017	563	12,6%
Denmark	1 907	1 903	-4	-0,2%
France	9 435	12 940	3 505	37,1%
Germany	22 752	27 512	4 760	20,9%
Ireland	1 791	2 137	346	19,3%
Italy	2 923	4 246	1 323	45,3%
Portugal	1 321	1 475	154	11,7%
Russian Federation	2 117	2 949	832	39,3%
Spain	1 898	2 944	1 046	55,1%
Sweden	2 116	2 552	436	20,6%
Switzerland	4 514	5 038	524	11,6%
The Netherlands	9 801	14 417	4 616	47,1%
UK	26 928	30 424	3 496	13,0%
Other	5 604	6 806	1 202	21,4%
North America	26 922	33 631	6 709	24,9%
Canada	3 832	5 620	1 788	46,7%
USA	23 090	28 011	4 921	21,3%
Central and South America	2 957	4 980	2 023	68,4%
Brazil	1 484	2 878	1 394	93,9%
Chile	141	370	229	162,4%
Mexico	432	351	-81	-18,8%
Other	900	1 381	481	53,4%
Australasia	6 456	8 446	1 990	30,8%
Australia	5 202	6 879	1 677	32,2%
New Zealand	1 240	1 538	298	24,0%
Other	14	29	15	107,1%
Middle East	3 123	2 835	-288	-9,2%
Israel	1 734	1 165	-569	-32,8%
Lebanon	153	173	20	13,1%
Saudi Arabia	661	786	125	18,9%
Other	575	711	136	23,7%
Asia	12 524	17 287	4 763	38,0%
Bangladesh	733	620	-113	-15,4%
China	1 316	3 046	1 730	131,5%
India	6 120	5 601	-519	-8,5%
Japan	532	1 870	1 338	251,5%
Malaysia	297	601	304	102,4%
Pakistan	1 050	997	-53	-5,0%
Philippines	452	943	491	108,6%
South Korea	427	891	464	108,7%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between October 2022 and October 2023 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	October 2022	October 2023	Difference between October 2022 and October 2023	% change between October 2022 and October 2023
Thailand	263	571	308	117,1%
Vietnam	385	687	302	78,4%
Other	949	1 460	511	53,8%
Africa	413 481	540 111	126 630	30,6%
SADC	402 365	527 616	125 251	31,1%
Angola	3 002	3 124	122	4,1%
Botswana	24 834	30 680	5 846	23,5%
DRC	1 208	2 164	956	79,1%
Eswatini	44 130	65 314	21 184	48,0%
Lesotho	73 357	89 226	15 869	21,6%
Madagascar	267	370	103	38,6%
Malawi	13 920	13 144	-776	-5,6%
Mauritius	1 071	1 790	719	67,1%
Mozambique	84 072	107 426	23 354	27,8%
Namibia	12 013	13 576	1 563	13,0%
Seychelles	339	424	85	25,1%
Tanzania	2 556	3 208	652	25,5%
Zambia	10 714	13 478	2 764	25,8%
Zimbabwe	130 882	183 692	52 810	40,3%
'Other' African	11 116	12 495	1 379	12,4%
East and Central Africa	5 625	7 629	2 004	35,6%
Burundi	89	92	3	3,4%
Cameroon	389	365	-24	-6,2%
Central African Republic	19	26	7	36,8%
Chad	38	45	7	18,4%
Comoros	21	71	50	238,1%
Congo	168	120	-48	-28,6%
Djibouti	7	8	1	14,3%
Equatorial Guinea	75	68	-7	-9,3%
Eritrea	37	30	-7	-18,9%
Ethiopia	542	724	182	33,6%
Gabon	302	287	-15	-5,0%
Kenya	2 733	4 464	1 731	63,3%
Rwanda	87	105	18	20,7%
São Tomé and Príncipe	10	13	3	30,0%
Somalia	133	56	-77	-57,9%
Uganda	975	1 155	180	18,5%
West Africa	4 260	3 695	-565	-13,3%
Benin	136	156	20	14,7%
Burkina Faso	82	68	-14	-17,1%
Cape Verde Island	28	29	1	3,6%
Côte d'Ivoire	221	209	-12	-5,4%
Gambia	62	44	-18	-29,0%
Ghana	1 438	772	-666	-46,3%
Guinea	133	108	-25	-18,8%
Guinea-Bissau	6	11	5	83,3%
Liberia	102	41	-61	-59,8%
Mali	86	70	-16	-18,6%

Annexure A – Number of tourists' difference between October 2022 and October 2023 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	October 2022	October 2023	Difference between October 2022 and October 2023	% change between October 2022 and October 2023
Mauritania	22	30	8	36,4%
Niger	43	28	-15	-34,9%
Nigeria	1 585	1 875	290	18,3%
Saint Helena	5	2	-3	-60,0%
Senegal	190	159	-31	-16,3%
Sierra Leone	54	52	-2	-3,7%
Togo	67	41	-26	-38,8%
North Africa	1 231	1 171	-60	-4,9%
Algeria	138	79	-59	-42,8%
Egypt	537	527	-10	-1,9%
Libya	52	36	-16	-30,8%
Morocco	133	150	17	12,8%
South Sudan	102	133	31	30,4%
The Sudan	180	48	-132	-73,3%
Tunisia	88	197	109	123,9%
Western Sahara	1	1	-	0,0%
Unspecified	1 192	1 219	27	2,3%

3.2 Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, October 2023

Country of residence	October 2023	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Total	731 108	78 806	3 091	149 879	783	232 559	498 451	98
Overseas	189 778	69 373	2 567	102 197	691	174 828	14 855	95
Europe	122 599	47 865	1 590	62 245	227	111 927	10 588	84
Austria	2 239	1 119	11	937	5	2 072	167	-
Belgium	5 017	1 761	59	2 638	6	4 464	552	1
Denmark	1 903	415	34	1 378	2	1 829	74	-
France	12 940	3 381	94	7 838	34	11 347	1 569	24
Germany	27 512	14 221	234	10 916	21	25 392	2 118	2
Ireland	2 137	984	69	991	10	2 054	83	-
Italy	4 246	1 907	44	2 032	12	3 995	248	3
Portugal	1 475	343	16	658	7	1 024	451	-
Russian Federation	2 949	1 398	56	1 355	18	2 827	122	-
Spain	2 944	947	43	1 652	11	2 653	285	6
Sweden	2 552	1 222	31	1 214	1	2 468	83	1
Switzerland	5 038	2 220	31	2 372	10	4 633	405	-
The Netherlands	14 417	4 813	197	6 648	8	11 666	2 751	-
UK	30 424	10 502	521	18 103	72	29 198	1 193	33
Other	6 806	2 632	150	3 513	10	6 305	487	14
North America	33 631	12 923	216	18 350	356	31 845	1 784	2
Canada	5 620	2 035	73	3 085	32	5 225	395	-
USA	28 011	10 888	143	15 265	324	26 620	1 389	2
Central and South America	4 980	891	19	3 759	21	4 690	288	2
Brazil	2 878	385	6	2 295	12	2 698	179	1
Chile	370	40	-	316	-	356	14	-
Mexico	351	138	5	198	4	345	6	-
Other	1 381	328	8	950	5	1 291	89	1
Australasia	8 446	1 657	181	6 198	35	8 071	374	1
Australia	6 879	1 229	117	5 206	30	6 582	297	-
New Zealand	1 538	419	64	972	5	1 460	77	1
Other	29	9	-	20	-	29	-	-
Middle East	2 835	1 113	26	1 618	5	2 762	73	-
Israel	1 165	156	9	958	4	1 127	38	-
Lebanon	173	28	3	137	-	168	5	-
Saudi Arabia	786	612	-	174	-	786	-	-
Other	711	317	14	349	1	681	30	-
Asia	17 287	4 924	535	10 027	47	15 533	1 748	6
Bangladesh	620	84	62	383	-	529	91	-
China	3 046	643	69	2 103	-	2 815	230	1
India	5 601	1 732	161	3 002	11	4 906	691	4
Japan	1 870	477	53	1 282	22	1 834	36	-
Malaysia	601	149	8	398	-	555	46	-
Pakistan	997	102	85	446	-	633	364	-
Philippines	943	544	31	332	-	907	36	-
South Korea	891	289	27	467	10	793	98	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, October 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	October 2023	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Thailand	571	242	15	310	-	567	4	-
Vietnam	687	80	3	600	-	683	4	-
Other	1 460	582	21	704	4	1 311	148	1
Africa	540 111	9 314	521	46 830	92	56 757	483 351	3
SADC	527 616	6 319	494	38 407	72	45 292	482 322	2
Angola	3 124	1 008	-	1 447	7	2 462	662	-
Botswana	30 680	338	5	2 415	22	2 780	27 900	-
DRC	2 164	83	-	1 788	6	1 877	287	-
Eswatini	65 314	139	71	785	-	995	64 319	-
Lesotho	89 226	6	4	644	1	655	88 571	-
Madagascar	370	12	-	351	-	363	7	-
Malawi	13 144	42	5	2 213	1	2 261	10 883	-
Mauritius	1 790	597	3	1 112	1	1 713	77	-
Mozambique	107 426	308	8	4 068	11	4 395	103 030	1
Namibia	13 576	1 747	-	2 571	-	4 318	9 257	1
Seychelles	424	12	-	387	-	399	25	-
Tanzania	3 208	321	1	1 526	-	1 848	1 360	-
Zambia	13 478	103	117	4 370	2	4 592	8 886	-
Zimbabwe	183 692	1 603	280	14 730	21	16 634	167 058	-
'Other' African	12 495	2 995	27	8 423	20	11 465	1 029	1
East and Central Africa	7 629	1 992	6	4 968	6	6 972	657	-
Burundi	92	18	-	71	-	89	3	-
Cameroon	365	72	-	274	-	346	19	-
Central African Republic	26	8	-	18	-	26	-	-
Chad	45	16	-	28	1	45	-	-
Comoros	71	5	-	66	-	71	-	-
Congo	120	36	-	84	-	120	-	-
Djibouti	8	4	-	4	-	8	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	68	44	-	24	-	68	-	-
Eritrea	30	4	-	23	-	27	3	-
Ethiopia	724	124	3	544	-	671	53	-
Gabon	287	37	-	245	1	283	4	-
Kenya	4 464	1 327	2	2 660	4	3 993	471	-
Rwanda	105	20	-	73	-	93	12	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	2	-	11	-	13	-	-
Somalia	56	10	-	32	-	42	14	-
Uganda	1 155	265	1	811	-	1 077	78	-
West Africa	3 695	676	11	2 651	14	3 352	342	1
Benin	156	19	2	125	-	146	10	-
Burkina Faso	68	13	-	55	-	68	-	-
Cape Verde Island	29	6	-	20	-	26	3	-
Côte d'Ivoire	209	57	-	148	1	206	3	-
Gambia	44	20	-	23	-	43	1	-
Ghana	772	69	2	668	-	739	33	-
Guinea	108	20	-	37	-	57	51	-
Guinea-Bissau	11	2	-	7	-	9	2	-
Liberia	41	13	-	27	1	41	-	-

Annexure B – Number of tourists by country of residence and mode of travel, October 2023 (concluded)

Country of residence	October 2023	Air					Road	Sea
		Cape Town	King Shaka	OR Tambo	Other	Total		
Mali	70	3	-	47	-	50	20	-
Mauritania	30	11	-	19	-	30	-	-
Niger	28	5	-	22	1	28	-	-
Nigeria	1 875	367	6	1 279	11	1 663	211	1
Saint Helena	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Senegal	159	51	1	105	-	157	2	-
Sierra Leone	52	10	-	36	-	46	6	-
Togo	41	10	-	31	-	41	-	-
North Africa	1 171	327	10	804	-	1 141	30	-
Algeria	79	16	-	63	-	79	-	-
Egypt	527	77	7	428	-	512	15	-
Libya	36	7	-	29	-	36	-	-
Morocco	150	51	1	95	-	147	3	-
South Sudan	133	52	-	78	-	130	3	-
The Sudan	48	12	-	27	-	39	9	-
Tunisia	197	112	2	83	-	197	-	-
Western Sahara	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 219	119	3	852	-	974	245	-

3.3 Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, October 2023

Country of residence	October 2023	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Total	731 108	22 823	704 575	3 413	297
Overseas	189 778	3 758	185 388	570	62
Europe	122 599	2 049	120 250	258	42
Austria	2 239	21	2 215	3	-
Belgium	5 017	46	4 958	12	1
Denmark	1 903	30	1 867	6	-
France	12 940	187	12 696	55	2
Germany	27 512	304	27 152	55	1
Ireland	2 137	38	2 096	3	-
Italy	4 246	136	4 103	7	-
Portugal	1 475	27	1 439	4	5
Russian Federation	2 949	37	2 910	2	-
Spain	2 944	90	2 847	7	-
Sweden	2 552	66	2 473	12	1
Switzerland	5 038	41	4 986	10	1
The Netherlands	14 417	172	14 214	21	10
UK	30 424	574	29 794	39	17
Other	6 806	280	6 500	22	4
North America	33 631	543	33 017	59	12
Canada	5 620	79	5 532	7	2
USA	28 011	464	27 485	52	10
Central and South America	4 980	108	4 850	22	-
Brazil	2 878	35	2 833	10	-
Chile	370	13	357	-	-
Mexico	351	22	327	2	-
Other	1 381	38	1 333	10	-
Australasia	8 446	59	8 382	5	-
Australia	6 879	48	6 827	4	-
New Zealand	1 538	11	1 526	1	-
Other	29	-	29	-	-
Middle East	2 835	78	2 714	42	1
Israel	1 165	3	1 157	5	-
Lebanon	173	15	154	4	-
Saudi Arabia	786	17	756	13	-
Other	711	43	647	20	1
Asia	17 287	921	16 175	184	7
Bangladesh	620	11	603	6	-
China	3 046	235	2 792	17	2
India	5 601	352	5 158	89	2
Japan	1 870	70	1 792	8	-
Malaysia	601	12	586	3	-
Pakistan	997	26	954	16	1
Philippines	943	80	859	4	-
South Korea	891	27	856	8	-

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, October 2023 (continued)

Country of residence	October 2023	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Thailand	571	8	562	1	-
Vietnam	687	13	673	1	-
Other	1 460	87	1 340	31	2
Africa	540 111	18 989	518 047	2 841	234
SADC	527 616	18 020	506 910	2 497	189
Angola	3 124	90	2 926	81	27
Botswana	30 680	968	29 333	351	28
DRC	2 164	76	1 977	83	28
Eswatini	65 314	2 105	63 002	200	7
Lesotho	89 226	681	87 578	965	2
Madagascar	370	7	356	7	-
Malawi	13 144	303	12 792	43	6
Mauritius	1 790	40	1 739	9	2
Mozambique	107 426	2 817	104 502	94	13
Namibia	13 576	3 595	9 718	248	15
Seychelles	424	1	423	-	-
Tanzania	3 208	137	3 030	36	5
Zambia	13 478	3 889	9 526	47	16
Zimbabwe	183 692	3 311	180 008	333	40
'Other' African	12 495	969	11 137	344	45
East and Central Africa	7 629	523	6 897	187	22
Burundi	92	10	79	3	-
Cameroon	365	44	302	15	4
Central African Republic	26	8	18	-	-
Chad	45	4	35	4	2
Comoros	71	6	65	-	-
Congo	120	15	97	7	1
Djibouti	8	4	4	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	68	25	42	1	-
Eritrea	30	1	28	1	-
Ethiopia	724	47	655	20	2
Gabon	287	8	260	17	2
Kenya	4 464	219	4 166	76	3
Rwanda	105	11	91	2	1
São Tomé and Príncipe	13	2	11	-	-
Somalia	56	4	50	2	-
Uganda	1 155	115	994	39	7
West Africa	3 695	300	3 251	126	18
Benin	156	7	146	2	1
Burkina Faso	68	12	53	3	-
Cape Verde Island	29	1	28	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	209	35	168	5	1
Gambia	44	13	31	-	-
Ghana	772	45	705	14	8
Guinea	108	10	96	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	11	2	9	-	-
Liberia	41	8	31	-	2

Annexure C – Number of tourists by country of residence and purpose of visit, October 2023 (concluded)

Country of residence	October 2023	Purpose of visit			
		Business	Holiday	Study	Medical Treatment
Mali	70	4	62	3	1
Mauritania	30	10	20	-	-
Niger	28	6	21	-	1
Nigeria	1 875	105	1 673	94	3
Saint Helena	2	-	2	-	-
Senegal	159	29	129	1	-
Sierra Leone	52	6	45	1	-
Togo	41	7	32	2	-
North Africa	1 171	146	989	31	5
Algeria	79	13	59	7	-
Egypt	527	71	445	11	-
Libya	36	1	33	2	-
Morocco	150	23	125	2	-
South Sudan	133	19	109	2	3
The Sudan	48	3	37	6	2
Tunisia	197	16	180	1	-
Western Sahara	1	-	1	-	-
Unspecified	1 219	76	1 140	2	1

3.4 Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Oct 2022 and Jan–Oct 2023 by country of residence

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2022	Jan – Oct 2023	Difference between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023	% change between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023
Total	4 454 466	6 889 196	2 434 730	54,7%
Overseas	1 100 233	1 659 080	558 847	50,8%
Europe	670 743	985 257	314 514	46,9%
Austria	9 880	15 712	5 832	59,0%
Belgium	27 141	37 378	10 237	37,7%
Denmark	11 097	14 642	3 545	31,9%
France	59 314	98 017	38 703	65,3%
Germany	122 738	189 780	67 042	54,6%
Ireland	15 406	21 529	6 123	39,7%
Italy	25 399	43 762	18 363	72,3%
Portugal	12 559	15 716	3 157	25,1%
Russian Federation	11 053	21 677	10 624	96,1%
Spain	18 823	26 904	8 081	42,9%
Sweden	11 049	17 811	6 762	61,2%
Switzerland	24 368	32 393	8 025	32,9%
The Netherlands	69 115	105 056	35 941	52,0%
UK	212 877	282 493	69 616	32,7%
Other	39 924	62 387	22 463	56,3%
North America	233 477	337 492	104 015	44,6%
Canada	26 057	44 070	18 013	69,1%
USA	207 420	293 422	86 002	41,5%
Central and South America	22 449	35 290	12 841	57,2%
Argentina	1 914	3 062	1 148	60,0%
Brazil	11 566	18 006	6 440	55,7%
Mexico	2 838	3 776	938	33,1%
Other	6 131	10 446	4 315	70,4%
Australasia	45 649	86 607	40 958	89,7%
Australia	37 934	70 828	32 894	86,7%
New Zealand	7 551	15 555	8 004	106,0%
Other	164	224	60	36,6%
Middle East	34 253	49 010	14 757	43,1%
Israel	14 348	18 860	4 512	31,4%
Saudi Arabia	9 978	14 204	4 226	42,4%
United Arab Emirates	2 822	6 164	3 342	118,4%
Other	7 105	9 782	2 677	37,7%
Asia	93 662	165 424	71 762	76,6%
Bangladesh	6 212	6 614	402	6,5%
China	9 471	31 379	21 908	231,3%
India	44 539	65 997	21 458	48,2%
Japan	4 069	10 914	6 845	168,2%
Malaysia	2 136	4 848	2 712	127,0%
Pakistan	10 394	10 739	345	3,3%
Philippines	3 488	5 395	1 907	54,7%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Oct 2022 and Jan–Oct 2023 by country of residence (continued)

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2022	Jan – Oct 2023	Difference between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023	% change between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023
Singapore	1 904	5 740	3 836	201,5%
South Korea	3 804	8 181	4 377	115,1%
Thailand	2 253	4 159	1 906	84,6%
Other	5 392	11 458	6 066	112,5%
Africa	3 346 259	5 219 656	1 873 397	56,0%
SADC	3 267 875	5 115 881	1 848 006	56,6%
Angola	25 717	32 686	6 969	27,1%
Botswana	197 587	276 195	78 608	39,8%
DRC	14 365	17 166	2 801	19,5%
Eswatini	339 772	593 044	253 272	74,5%
Lesotho	667 336	973 058	305 722	45,8%
Madagascar	1 357	2 980	1 623	119,6%
Malawi	90 963	110 986	20 023	22,0%
Mauritius	8 219	13 734	5 515	67,1%
Mozambique	752 428	1 093 231	340 803	45,3%
Namibia	107 776	128 197	20 421	18,9%
Seychelles	1 879	3 480	1 601	85,2%
Tanzania	20 656	26 988	6 332	30,7%
Zambia	93 322	116 082	22 760	24,4%
Zimbabwe	946 498	1 728 054	781 556	82,6%
'Other' African	78 384	103 775	25 391	32,4%
East and Central Africa	37 818	60 247	22 429	59,3%
Burundi	580	892	312	53,8%
Cameroon	2 838	3 584	746	26,3%
Central African Republic	94	173	79	84,0%
Chad	254	365	111	43,7%
Comoros	268	354	86	32,1%
Congo	1 253	1 298	45	3,6%
Djibouti	50	87	37	74,0%
Equatorial Guinea	222	288	66	29,7%
Eritrea	352	327	-25	-7,1%
Ethiopia	4 114	5 156	1 042	25,3%
Gabon	2 259	3 333	1 074	47,5%
Kenya	16 976	33 018	16 042	94,5%
Réunion	-	22	22	-
Rwanda	567	792	225	39,7%
São Tomé and Príncipe	43	71	28	65,1%
Somalia	912	523	-389	-42,7%
Uganda	7 036	9 964	2 928	41,6%
West Africa	32 263	33 309	1 046	3,2%
Benin	925	1 396	471	50,9%
Burkina Faso	463	595	132	28,5%
Cape Verde Island	195	246	51	26,2%
Côte d'Ivoire	1 504	1 862	358	23,8%

Annexure D – Number of tourists' difference between Jan–Oct 2022 and Jan–Oct 2023 by country of residence (concluded)

Country of residence	Jan – Oct 2022	Jan – Oct 2023	Difference between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023	% change between Jan – Oct 2022 and Jan – Oct 2023
Gambia	260	342	82	31,5%
Ghana	12 185	8 344	-3 841	-31,5%
Guinea	746	1 109	363	48,7%
Guinea-Bissau	39	78	39	100,0%
Liberia	350	496	146	41,7%
Mali	579	850	271	46,8%
Mauritania	106	158	52	49,1%
Niger	165	236	71	43,0%
Nigeria	13 044	15 493	2 449	18,8%
Saint Helena	49	43	-6	-12,2%
Senegal	1 022	1 252	230	22,5%
Sierra Leone	369	420	51	13,8%
Togo	262	389	127	48,5%
North Africa	8 303	10 219	1 916	23,1%
Algeria	776	923	147	18,9%
Egypt	3 883	4 726	843	21,7%
Libya	481	500	19	4,0%
Morocco	912	1 280	368	40,4%
South Sudan	519	818	299	57,6%
The Sudan	1 078	877	-201	-18,6%
Tunisia	648	1 083	435	67,1%
Western Sahara	6	12	6	100,0%
Unspecified	7 974	10 460	2 486	31,2%

4. Explanatory notes

4.1 Introduction

Legal movements across South African borders, as well as legal immigration into South Africa, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Stats SA then processes, analyses and publishes this information.

Administrative data sources from the DHA, that is, information from all the country's ports of entry and applications for permanent residence, constitute the only comprehensive source of information on foreign arrivals and departures, documented immigrants and emigrants. The information from this source of data provides the best national coverage (in terms of both space and time) of the population movements of South African residents and foreign travellers. The data can be used for the following:

- To estimate, monitor and understand salient characteristics of foreign travellers and volumes of South African residents travelling outside South Africa.
- To provide information that can be used to (a) assess the extent of government's progress in strengthening bilateral political and economic relations by assessing the number of international tourist arrivals, and (b) benchmark surveys focusing on the demand for local tourism services by foreign travellers.

4.2 Purpose of the statistical release

This release reports on arrivals, departures and transit travellers of South African residents and foreign travellers. Detailed information on the age and sex distribution; mode of travel; national and regional distribution; and purpose of travel of overnight visitors or tourists are also provided.

4.3 Scope and coverage

The release covers data collected by DHA officials on travellers who departed from or entered the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

4.4 Data

Information published in this release is based on data obtained from the following data sources within the DHA:

- Data routinely collected by immigration officers at all road, air and sea entry ports on all travellers (South African residents and foreign travellers) arriving into or departing from South Africa are captured into the DHA's population Movement Control System (MCS). The counts/statistics relate to the number of individual movements, rather than to the number of people. Hence, the multiple movements of individual people during the calendar month are each counted separately. Generally, the data are collected directly from travel documents either by scanning or capturing onto the ports' electronic database. No forms or cards are used (except on rare occasions when the capturing system is down) to collect information from travellers. Individual ports regularly transmit data onto the national database at the head office of the DHA.
- Stats SA receives downloaded data covering a particular calendar month from the DHA.
- As part of data interrogation, data from OR Tambo International Airport, which has the highest volume of travellers, are compared with passenger statistics from the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). As expected, in any specific month, an increase in the volume of passengers reported by ACSA is also reflected in an increase in the volume of travellers recorded by DHA. A similar pattern has also been observed when the volume of travellers decreased. In October 2023, the DHA data was 2,7% lower than that of ACSA.

4.5 Limitations

4.5.1 Outbound tourists

The information on the total number of arrivals and departures of South African residents is collected from the scanning of passports. However, data on the country visited are not collected from passengers; country of final destination; intended duration of stay and purpose of visit. With this limitation, it is impossible to identify the number of tourists from the data on South African residents.

4.6 Definition of terms

4.6.1 Definitions used by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Traveller is someone who moves between different geographical locations for any purpose and any duration.

Visitor refers to any person travelling to a place other than that of his/her usual environment for less than 12 months and whose main purpose of the trip is other than the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Same-Day visitor is a visitor who visits a place for less than one night.

Tourist (overnight visitor) is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private accommodation in the place visited.

Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to, and staying in places outside their usual environment, for not more than one consecutive year, for leisure, business and other purposes. The usual environment of a person consists of a certain area around his/her place of residence, plus all the other places he/she frequently visits.

4.6.2 Definitions used specifically in this release

South African resident refers to either a South African citizen or a non-South African citizen with a South African permanent residence permit.

Foreign traveller refers to a traveller who is not a South African citizen or permanent resident.

Region refers to the following country classification:

- Overseas: Europe, North America, Central and South America, Australasia, the Middle East and Asia.
- Africa: SADC and 'other' Africa (East and Central Africa, West Africa and North Africa).

Country refers to individual countries within a region. The country of residence is used. The country of residence should not be confused with the country from which the visitor travelled.

Africa refers to all the countries in Africa (both mainland and island countries).

SADC refers to the 14 countries, excluding South Africa, which belong to the Southern African Development Community.

'Other' African refers to all non-SADC African countries.

Overseas refers to all countries outside Africa.

Trip refers to the arrival and departure of a visitor in a specified month.

4.7 Symbols used

- = nil

< = less than

4.8 Rounding off

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

5. General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's 12 official languages, since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities. Stats SA releases are published in English.

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